

Two Lives Devoted to Others

By ORM MANHARD

A tumult of emotions tumbled through the young girl as the ship Dutchess of Atholl pulled away from the Liverpool dock that day in 1940. Excitement, fear, hope, worry, sadness; it was more than a 12 year old should have to handle. She was

Senior Scene

leaving her family and sailing to America, one of hundreds of English children sent here to keep them safe from an expected German

invasion. Would she even get to America?

Ships were being sunk by U-Boats at an alarming rate. "No use worrying about that," she told herself, and made up her mind to enjoy the excitement of the new experience.

The young girl was Sheila Inglis, born in Doncaster, England, the youngest of six children. Sheila was one of seven young British girls sponsored by Helen Frick, daughter of Henry Clay Frick, a wealthy American financier. Sheila and the other girls survived the voyage and were welcomed to the Frick estate in Pride's Crossing, Mass., where they were housed in living quarters converted from the estate's former stables. After two years Miss Frick decided to move the girls to a home she maintained in Mt. Kisco, N.Y. The girls attended school in nearby Chappaqua. When they graduated from high school, they were sent back to England as the danger of invasion had passed. Sheila again crossed the Atlantic in a troop ship, but she had a pledge from Miss Frick, who saw great promise in the girl. If she returned to America after the war, Miss Frick would welcome her back and pay her expense to attend college! So when the war in Europe ended in April, 1945, Sheila once again made the Atlantic Crossing and rejoined Miss Frick in Mt. Kisco. Now circumstances conspired to bring together Sheila and the man she would marry, Henry Milliken Jr.

Henry's father was an architect. He and Henry Clay Frick had been classmates at Princeton and the Frick family was an important client. It was Henry's father who oversaw the conversion of the Frick stables to living quarters for the British girls. The two families knew each other and often met on social occasions.

When Henry graduated from high school in 1944 he enlisted in the Marines, serving in the Pacific, and after the war, in Japan, but soon returned home and was mustered out. Shortly after Henry's return Miss Frick planned a luncheon to which she invited Henry's mother.

On learning that Henry was back, she said, "Oh, please bring Henry, too. My young English girl will be here and it would be nice for them to meet." Henry remarks: "Mother and Miss Frick were good matchmakers. We've been married 60 years."

When Sheila and Henry married in 1948 Sheila was in her senior year at Barnard and soon graduated. Henry was a sophomore at Bard College, where he was attending on the G.I. Bill. This provided housing and living expenses for married students. Notes Henry: "I entered as an unmarried freshman and graduated as a senior with a wife and two kids."

The "two kids" were Susan, born in 1949, and Paige, born a year later.

Henry graduated from Bard in 1951 and went to work as a teacher at the Castwood School in Oyster Bay on Long Island, while Sheila coped with raising two kids a year apart. In 1959 they moved back to Mt. Kisco where Henry had been appointed Headmaster of the Cisqua School, which taught youngsters starting in nursery school through fourth grade. In the 10 years Henry served as Headmaster he expanded the school to include grades five through nine. It was during this period that Henry and Sheila



Henry and Sheila Milliken

bought a cottage on Abram's Hill and became summer residents of Duxbury.

In 1972 the Millikens became year-around residents when Henry joined the faculty of Derby Academy in Hingham, teaching basic science. They winterized their home and have since made several additions and improvements. It offers a striking view over the Back River Marsh and includes an attached green house containing many of the flowers and plants gracing the living room.

Henry retired from teaching in 1985, and worked at Bayside Marine as store manager. Henry and Sheila both love to travel and have kept active as volunteers. Henry recently completed a stint as chairman of the Council on Aging, and is currently engaged in the Respite Program for Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers. Last year Henry was the recipient of two prestigious volunteer awards; the Presidential Award, a plaque for outstanding volunteer work awarded and signed by the President of the United States, and the Duxbury Lifetime Achievement Award. Sheila has kept in touch for more than 60 years with the other girls who shared her wartime experience of living here. In 1990 they held a reunion in Duxbury for all seven, this summer a reunion is planned in England which the Millikens plan to attend.

Elizabeth Dondero provides editorial assistance for this column.